



CLOSE CALL CONTINUOUS MINING MACHINE ACCIDENT



On July 18, 2006, during a maintenance shift, an electrician was injured when the oxygen/acetylene cart he and another miner were pulling was struck by the boom of the continuous mining machine, as another maintenance worker (welder) was attempting to re-position the machine. As the miners pulling the cart passed between the machine and rib, the operator thought they had cleared the boom. He then split the cat-tracks to swing the head into the intersection. This caused the boom to swing toward the rib, striking the cart and throwing the electrician into the rib and a protruding rib pin. He suffered a cracked rib and bruising of his liver, necessitating an overnight stay in the hospital. The other miner was not injured.

Best Practices:

1. Ensure everyone is outside the machine turning radius before re-positioning equipment.
2. Avoid pinch points between rib and machinery.
3. Maintain clear visibility with all personnel in the vicinity of moving equipment.
4. Personnel operating machinery should be thoroughly trained and acquainted with its operation, to include safe operating procedures outlined in approved plans.
5. Take extra time if it means avoiding a potentially dangerous condition. The shortest travel distance is not always the safest.
6. Always verify that the operator sees and knows where you are.
7. Consider wearing additional reflective clothing.